

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 18462 271928Z
ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 SS-15 A-01 NSCE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8294

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 18462

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y T E X T

FOR HICKEY & ROACH/D'URSO; SY/CC/TAGS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ASEC, OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS)
SUBJECT: SECURITY OF MRS. VANCE

1. MRS. VANCE HAS EXPRESSED DESIRE TO TRAVEL BY TRAIN FROM
DELHI TO AGRA MORNING OF JANUARY.

2. NEW DELHI POLICE AUTHORITIES HAVE PRIVATELY EXPRESSED STRONG
RESERVATIONS AS TO THIS MODE OF TRAVEL. SABOTAGE OF THE RAIL
LINES IN INDIA IS AN "ALMOST A DAILY OCCURRENCE," TO QUOTE THE
POLICE. THE BACKGROUND FURNISHED IN PRIVATE BY POLICE AUTHORITIES
IS THAT THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT IN THE HEAT OF THE LAST ELECTION
CAMPAIGN PROMISED THE PART-TIME MAINTENANCE CREWS OF INDIAN
RAILWAYS THAT THEY WOULD BE MADE PERMANENT EMPLOYEES. THERE ARE
100,000 SUCH PART-TIME EMPLOYEES AND THE GOI IS NOT IN ANY POSITION
TO FULFILL THIS PROMISE. AS A RESULT, WHEN THESE DAILY WAGE
MAINTENANCE CREWS ARE NOT WORKING, BUT CONTINUE TO HAVE ACCESS TO
THE TRACK, SOME ARE REMOVING BOLTS WHICH ATTACH THE TRACK TO THE RAIL-

BED RESULTING IN DERAILMENT OF CARS. THERE HAS BEEN ONE ACCIDENT
RESULTING IN THE DEATH OF TWENTY PERSONS ON THE SAME LINE
AS THE TAJ EXPRESS TRAVELS.

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3. THE POLICE AUTHORITIES ARE NATURALLY SENSITIVE TO THE
SABOTAGE PROBLEM AND IN GENERAL MEETINGS PROCLAIM THAT THEY
CAN SECURE THE TRACK. THEY HAVE ADVISED THAT A LEAD TRAIN
WILL BE DISPATCHED AHEAD OF MRS. VANCE'S TRAIN FOR
HER TRIP AND THAT EXTENSIVE PRECAUTIONS WILL BE TAKEN TO
INSPECT AND GUARD THE TRACK EN ROUTE. IN ADDITION, WE

PLAN TO HAVE EOD PERSONNEL RIDE THE LEAD TRAIN.

4. AS A RESULT OF THE REAL THREAT OF SABOTAGE TO THE RAILWAY LINES, WE MOST STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT MRS. VANCE EITHER TRAVEL BY PLANE OR VEHICLE TO AGRA SINCE IT IS EVIDENT THAT WE CANNOT GUARANTEE HER SAFETY BY TRAIN. VEHICLE TRAVEL WOULD TAKE APPROXIMATELY 3 1/2 HOURS, GIVE MRS. VANCE AND HER PARTY THE OPPORTUNITY TO VIEW THE COUNTRYSIDE AND POLICE PROTECTION WOULD BE ASSURED. AIR TRAVEL PRESENTS NO SECURITY PROBLEMS WHATSOEVER.

5. PLEASE ADVISE.
GOHEEN

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Message Attributes

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